Sunil and Vikram were going to spend a week with their friend, Anil, in Chennai. Both their families had come to see the boys off at the station.

Vikram’s dog, Moti, was excited. He knew something was going on because everyone was talking to him and stroking him. Moti was also going to Chennai.

Sunil’s father looked down the platform and saw the guard take out his green flag. He said, ‘Now boys, jump onto the train.’

Vikram’s father gave Vikram a big hug and said, ‘Anil’s father will meet you at Central Station. Be careful and don’t do anything foolish.’

‘Goodbye, boys,’ said Vikram’s mother. ‘Don’t stand near the door; and don’t put your hands out of the windows.’

Even Sunil’s young sister had some advice for the boys, ‘Look after your money,’ she said and pointed to the small purse that Vikram had in his shirt pocket.

The guard blew his whistle. Slowly, the train began to move. Everyone waved.

The boys spread their sheets on the bunks. Vikram had a lower bunk and Sunil had the one above him. The other two passengers, a fat man and a fat woman, began to get ready for the night. They did not complain about Moti. Moti curled up on the bottom of Vikram’s bunk and lay there wagging his tail.
Soon the train was rushing through the night. The boys ate their food by the open window and enjoyed the cool wind blowing into the compartment. They watched the lights of the cars in the distance.

Sometimes the train slowed down as it rumbled over a long bridge. Sometimes it passed through a small town.

At 11 o’clock the boys were feeling quite sleepy. The fat man and his wife were fast asleep already. The brakes screeched and the train came to a stop at a small station.

Vikram settled his head in the pillow and pushed the sheet away from him. Then he heard Moti growl and he opened his eyes.

There was a hand right in front of Vikram’s face! The hand went straight to his pocket and came out with his purse. Moti barked loudly and jumped towards the window. Vikram leapt up shouting, ‘Thief! Stop thief!’

Sunil sat up. The fat man snored; his wife grunted and turned over. Vikram and Moti ran to the door. Vikram opened the door and Moti ran off after the man.

Vikram saw the man climb over some railings at the end of the platform. Vikram was running after the man when he heard the whistle. He turned round.

The train was leaving the station without him!

The train picked up speed and disappeared into the darkness. The stationmaster and some other men came running.

‘What happened?’ asked the stationmaster.

Vikram quickly explained. Just then they heard a cry from the railway yard. They all jumped over the railings into the yard. The cries from the darkness grew louder.
'Over there, near the wall!' shouted one of the men. They ran towards the wall and found a man standing there. Moti was standing in front of him, growling and snarling and looking very dangerous. Moti had a piece of the man’s trousers in his mouth. In the man’s hand was Vikram’s purse.

‘Well done, Moti,’ cried Vikram. ‘You’ve caught the thief.’

Moti stopped growling and began to wag his tail. He jumped up and tried to lick Vikram’s face.

Two of the men caught hold of the thief and marched him off to the station-master’s office. One of the men gave Vikram his purse. Vikram was delighted, but then he remembered the train.

‘What shall I do now?’ he asked. ‘My friend, Sunil, is on the train and it has left without me.’

The stationmaster said, ‘Don’t worry, my boy. You come with me.’ So Vikram followed him.

When they got back to the platform, there was the train! And there was Sunil standing on the platform with a large group of people around him. Vikram ran up to him. ‘Sunil! Sunil!’ he shouted, ‘I thought the train had left without me.’
‘I pulled the chain to stop the train,’ said Sunil. ‘The engine driver brought the train back.’

The boys got into the train. All the other passengers got in too. Soon they were off.

‘What an exciting story we will have to tell Anil,’ said Vikram, as the train rattled on through the night.

David Horsburgh

**WORDS TO KNOW**

**bunk**  a narrow bed fixed to the walls of a compartment in a train

**compartment**  a part of a passenger train in which there are seats or bunks for sleeping accommodation

**railing**  rails and other supports which form a barrier

**rumble**  to make a deep rolling sound

**screech**  a loud, high-pitched sound

**snarling**  growling

**snore**  to breathe noisily while asleep

**COMPREHENSION**

1. **Answer these questions.**
   a. Where were Sunil and Vikram going?
   b. Who was going with the boys?
   c. What advice did Sunil’s sister give?
   d. Who shared the compartment with the boys?
   e. What did the boys see from the moving train?
   f. What happened when the train stopped at a station?
   g. Did the man and woman in the compartment wake up?
   h. Who chased the thief?
   i. Who caught the thief?

   **This question is more difficult. Discuss it.**
   j. What did Sunil do to stop the train? Would you have stopped the train?
      What might have happened if the train had not been stopped?
2. Who said the following? Write the names of the speakers beneath each bubble.

- I pulled the chain.
- Over there, near the wall!
- What happened?
- Don’t do anything foolish.
- Stop! Thief!
- Well done, Moti.

a. ........................................ b. ........................................ c. ........................................

d. ........................................ e. ........................................ f. ........................................

3. Who might have said the following?
   a. ‘Why did you pull the chain?’
   b. ‘I like dogs, but don’t let that dog jump onto my bunk.’
   c. ‘Get this dog away from me.’
   d. ‘I can see the guard taking out his flag.’
   e. ‘Woof!’
   f. ‘I will see that you get on another train.’

4. Answer the questions about these lines from the story.
   The guard blew his whistle. Slowly, the train began to move. Everyone waved.
   a. Who was on the platform?
   b. Who was in the train?
   c. Where was the train going?
   d. What advice had those on the train received and from whom?
   e. What did those on the train do as soon as the train left the station?

WORKING WITH WORDS

1. Use the underlined words in sentences of your own.
   a. He tried to lift up the stone.
   b. He pulled off his shirt.
   c. Ashoka ruled over India.
d. I hope you'll join in the game.
e. The king sent for his minister.
f. Please give me back my pencil.

2. Circle the word that is not in alphabetical order in each of the following.

<p>| | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>a.</td>
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<td>prince</td>
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<td>c.</td>
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<td>doesn't</td>
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<td>gland</td>
<td>glide</td>
<td>glass</td>
<td>glove</td>
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<td>e.</td>
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<td>moan</td>
<td>moss</td>
<td>most</td>
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<tr>
<td>f.</td>
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<td>while</td>
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<td>h.</td>
<td>knew</td>
<td>knife</td>
<td>know</td>
<td>knows</td>
<td>known</td>
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</tbody>
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LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

1. Read page 92 again. Then divide the following sentences into their subjects and predicates.

a. The old man broke his lamp.
b. The lamp fell on the ground.
c. The kerosene ran all over his feet.
d. His feet were all wet.
e. He went home.
f. He washed his feet.

2. Join the sentences with the word who.

Example: This is the man. He came here yesterday.
          This is the man who came here yesterday.

a. Find me a man. He is rich and brave.
b. This is the thief. He stole my money.
c. This is the teacher. He taught my grandfather.
d. This is the carpenter. He made your chairs.
e. This is the girl. She came by bus.
LISTENING AND SPEAKING

Listen carefully to a poem. When you hear the name of a colour, mark it with a tick.

Colours

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<tr>
<th>red</th>
<th>brown</th>
<th>orange</th>
<th>pink</th>
<th>blue</th>
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<td>grey</td>
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<td>purple</td>
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<tr>
<td>cyan</td>
<td>white</td>
<td>turquoise</td>
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<tr>
<td>olive</td>
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<td>khaki</td>
<td>violet</td>
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<tr>
<td>gold</td>
<td>silver</td>
<td>azure</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you know what all these colours look like? Find out.

Which word in the list above is not a colour?

COMPOSITION

What did the boys tell Anil when they arrived in Chennai?

Write about it and draw a picture. You may write it as a dialogue (conversation), if you like.